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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Gdynia - Port Conditions

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The Office of Naval Intelligence (DIO 1 ND, Ser 16-54) furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination per Par 3c of NSCID #17

1. Cargo. From 22 to 24 August 1954 our ship was in Gdynia, Poland, for the purpose of loading general cargo, particularly 500 tons of hams, Christmas tree ornaments and dolls consigned to New York.
2. Security. On tying up at the pier we were boarded by an officer (a captain), three corporals and 12 men who carried out a three to three and one half-hour search of the vessel. There was a similar search when we left. Six crew members accompanied the searchers as "aides". Photography was forbidden. We were instructed not to use the ship's radio but the radio equipment was not sealed.
3. Seaman's Club. I have no firsthand personal knowledge of the new Seaman's Club activities but I heard about the place when our ship was visited by a member of the Swedish Clergy who was stationed in Gdynia. Named the Inter Club, it is housed in a three-story building containing a restaurant, a lounge, a bar and a place for dancing. It operates on what might be called a low pressure propaganda basis, in that political discussions while at the club are forbidden. An attempt has been made to make the club as "plush" as possible. Hostesses are not permitted to leave the club with the sailors. Apparently the "gracious living" displayed is to try to make the patrons think that perhaps Communism does have something to offer and perhaps its aims and motives are oriented in the right direction. To help give this impression, newspapers from many places in the world are available at the club. This is apparently intended to emphasize the so-called freedom of thought tolerated and encouraged in nations under Communist influence.

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